

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is a replacement sheet for Fig. 17 that properly identifies the distal end 226 of the retaining section 222. The prior amendment to Fig. 17 incorrectly added numeral 222 which was already set forth in Fig. 17 as originally filed.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for helpful suggestions to Applicant's representative during an interview on October 21, 2009. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that he would favorably consider allowing the present application if claims 1 and 11 were further amended to include additional limitations regarding the at least one flat planar side of the shank portion of the pin. The Examiner will proceed to amend the present application by way of an Examiner's Amendment.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is a replacement sheet for Fig. 17 that properly identifies the distal end 226 of the retaining section 222. The prior amendment to Fig. 17 incorrectly added numeral 222 which was already set forth in Fig. 17 as originally filed.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-11 and 12-19 are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin the restricted claims in view of the allowance of independent claims 1 and 11.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Applicant did file JP 2001-293648 in an Information Disclosure Statement on October 16, 2009 to bring this patent to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge this IDS.

CONCLUSION

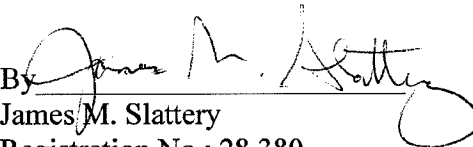
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 21, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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